



# BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATE FORUM

Wednesday, October 2, 2019

Presented by



BVSD DISTRICT PARENT COUNCIL

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# MEET THE CANDIDATES

(Bios provided for Candidates in Forum tonight):

## **District A**

### **Lisa Sweeney-Miran**

Lisa Sweeney-Miran is the Executive Director of Mother House. She was raised in Boulder and has three children, with the two oldest attending a BVSD elementary school.

While in law school, she volunteered with Boulder Reads to teach English as a second language to adults. After earning her law degree, she taught in Egypt and in Kurdistan. She's also taught at Boulder's September School, a private high school, and worked as a director for after-school programs.

Sweeney-Miran believes that schools should be accessible to students of all socioeconomic, racial, and ethnic backgrounds, inclusive of all genders, sexes, and sexual orientations, and accommodating of all learning differences, neurodiversities, and social-emotional needs. A truly excellent school works for and focuses on each student as an individual.

Contact Lisa at [lisasweeney@usa.net](mailto:lisasweeney@usa.net)

[www.lisaforbvsd.com](http://www.lisaforbvsd.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/lisaforbvsd>

### **Jai Rajagopal**

Jai Rajagopal recently served as a policy intern at Colorado Common Cause and a legislative aide in the Colorado State House. He previously interned with New Era Colorado, interned and worked as a paid staff member with Joe Neguse's campaign for Congress, and worked as a field organizer for Rep. Matt Gray's campaign.

He graduated from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 2018 with a bachelor's degree in political science and history.

Rajagopal's priorities are to expand access to mental health services, improve special education programs for students with dyslexia and other learning disabilities, and reduce class sizes. He believes that every student is different, and we need the educational system to meet students where they are.

Contact Jai at [rajagopaljai@gmail.com](mailto:rajagopaljai@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/j4bvsd>

<https://www.j4bvsd.com>



## District D

### Stacey Zis

Stacey Zis is a senior consultant with the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems and mom of a Boulder High student. She served on the State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education for six years, including four years as the group's elected chairwoman.

Locally, she has been a member of the District Parent Council since 2008 and has served as a co-chair since 2011. On the District Parent Council, she also served as co-chair of the strategic planning design team and action team for family partnerships, as well as co-chair of the Family-School Partnerships Steering Committee.

Stacey wants to work with the Board of Education to make sure our 56 schools are places where EVERY student and family feels welcome, where ALL feel safe, and where EVERY student has the opportunities they deserve and the support they need.

Contact Stacey at [staceyzisforbvsd@gmail.com](mailto:staceyzisforbvsd@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/zisisitforschoolboard>

### Additional uncontested candidates you will see on the ballot:

#### District C

##### Kathy Gebhardt

[kathleengebhardt@me.com](mailto:kathleengebhardt@me.com)

#### District G

##### Richard Garcia

[spccolo@aol.com](mailto:spccolo@aol.com)

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## FORUM OVERVIEW

Four of the seven BVSD Board of Education seats are up for election this year. Only District A has a contested race. Tonight, you will hear from three candidates. Each candidate has one minute for an opening and a closing statement.

The questions asked tonight were submitted by community members through a written or email process. Questions submitted but not asked tonight will be emailed to the candidates at the conclusion of tonight's forum.

#### Moderator:

**Elizabeth Crowe**, League of Women Voters Boulder County

#### Time keeper:

**Francois-Pierre (FP) Fournier**, District Parent Council

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## **League of Women Voters Boulder County**

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging informed and active participation in government. It influences public policy through education and advocacy. We never support or oppose any political party or candidate.

[www.lwv.org/local-leagues/lwv-boulder-county](http://www.lwv.org/local-leagues/lwv-boulder-county)

## **Boulder Valley District Parent Council**

The Boulder Valley District Parent Council (DPC) provides a monthly forum and lively exchange of ideas for all schools in Boulder Valley School District. The DPC is made up of one representative from every school in the district. We meet once a month during the school year with the Superintendent of Schools along with a School Board member to discuss and examine timely and relevant topics that affect the students and schools of BVSD. Our meetings are open to the public, and we encourage all to attend. Meetings are scheduled from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month unless otherwise noted. Meetings are held in the PDC meeting rooms at the BVSD Ed Center.

## **Impact on Education**

Impact on Education is the foundation supporting all Boulder Valley public schools. Our wide-ranging projects and programs drive innovation and foster excellence throughout BVSD, and impact over 31,000 local students and 4,000 educators each school year. Our program and support focus is on increasing equity, including addressing economic and learning barriers that curtail success, promoting innovation in education, and fostering excellence in instruction. [www.ImpactOnEducation.org](http://www.ImpactOnEducation.org)